

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

16/00085

For publication

Subject: Redevelopment and expansion of Portal House Special School, Dover

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to:

Increase the funding allocated from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget to the redevelopment and expansion of Portal House Special School, Dover from the agreed £9m to £10.39m.

Reason(s) for decision:

- a. On 19 December 2014, I agreed to the redevelopment and expansion by 20 places of Portal House Special School, Dover. On 15 May 2015 I agreed to increase in the funding by £0.5m to £9m to mitigate the significant design work needed following the submission of a planning application.
- b. Negotiations with local stakeholders have resulted in delays to the project and necessitated changes to the design. These have created a budget pressure.

Reasons for Capital Pressures:

- Construction inflation
- Additional design and site survey costs, caused by heritage and District Council objections.
- Increased cost of the scheme resulting from a partial refurbishment and new build proposal. Required to mitigate Planning concerns.
- Increased costs associated with phasing requirements to enable construction on the live school site.

c. **Financial Implications**

Capital – The project has commenced in the form of the enabling works. Progress has to be made to complete the rebuild and expansion. The capital pressure is £1.39m, requiring a revised budget allocation of £10.39m.

d. **Supporting Information**

Kent's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aims to address, amongst other things, gaps in provision. Therefore, the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (2016-20) sets out the intention to redevelop Portal House Special School on the present site.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Education and Young People's cabinet Committee – 22 September 2016


Resolved that Cabinet Committee endorsed the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to increase the funding allocated from the Education and Young People's Capital Budget to the redevelopment and expansion of Portal House Special School, Dover

from the agreed £9m to £10.39m.

Any alternatives considered:

The SEND Strategy explored all options and the expansion of this provision was deemed the suitable option.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:


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Signed

28 September 2016
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Date